

REMARKS

At the onset, Applicant respectfully requests expedited handling of this reissue application in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.176(a). This reissue has been pending since August 13, 1999. The case was appealed on September 23, 2002 and remanded to the Examiner on May 13, 2004. Reissue applications are to be treated with special dispatch as the foregoing regulation and MPEP section indicates. *See* 37 C.F.R. § 1.176(a) and MPEP § 1441-42.

Claims 1-45 are pending. Claims 1-16, which are based on the patent, have been allowed. Claims 17-45 are new claims that remain pending. All of the new claims, including claims 24, 26, 41 and 42-45 are presented herein in proper format in accordance with Rule 173 and MPEP § 1453, which requires amended new claims to be completely underlined. (*See* MPEP at 1400-68.)

Applicant appreciates the courtesies extended by Examiner Tran during the telephonic interview of April 27, 2005 ("Interview"), in which it was indicated that, subject to compliance with certain formalities, the application is in condition for allowance. During the Interview, the Examiner requested that Applicant amend claim 26 to be consistent with the amendments made to claims 24 and 41, and to resubmit these claims as well as claims 42-45 in proper format consistent with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.173. In addition, the Examiner requested amendment of the abstract to remove the phrase "the invention." Accordingly, Applicant has amended claim 26 to be consistent with claim 24 by deleting the phrase "outwardly and upwardly" in favor of "at said obtuse angle." Applicant has also submitted herewith a listing of all new claims in compliance with the requirements under 37 C.F.R. § 1.173(b)(2) and (d), which require all changes to be shown relative to the patent. Moreover, Applicant has amended the Abstract by deleting the phrase "the invention" and by deleting the term "comprising" and replacing it with the term "including." A replacement sheet for the abstract is enclosed herewith.

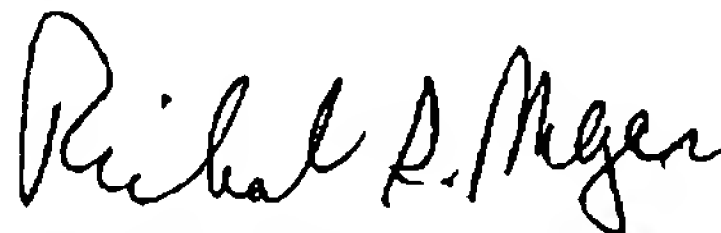
During the Interview, the Examiner briefly discussed the possible need for a supplemental oath or declaration. Applicant has reviewed the applicable rules and MPEP and does not believe that a supplemental declaration is required because the error in the originally submitted reissue inventor's declaration remains applicable to all the claims in the reissue application. (*Cf.* MPEP § 1411 at page 1400-54.) Accordingly, a supplemental declaration is not being filed herewith. If the Examiner believes a supplemental declaration is required,

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner explain the basis and defer the requirement until after allowance of this application.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance, as indicated in the Interview Record, and prompt notification thereof is respectfully solicited. If there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, it is requested that the Examiner contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the number below to expedite prosecution.

Applicant believes that no extensions of time are required at this time. If extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned for under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a). Applicant believes that no further fees for net addition of claims are required at this time. Any fees required for extensions of time and any fees for the net addition of claims are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 23-1951.

Respectfully submitted,



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